GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:424
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2003
RECOMMENDATIONS OF INQUIRY COMMITTEES
RITA VERMA

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry or its departments are empowered to implement the recommendations of the committees set up to inquire into the coal-mines accidents;

(b) if so, the manner in which the public sector coal companies implemented the recommendations given by the above committees;

(c) whether his Ministry is satisfied with the performance of these coal companies regarding implementation of the recommendations; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to implement the recommendations given by the committees?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 424 for 21.04.2003 regardingrecommendations of Inquiry Committees raised by Prof. Rita Verma

(a): The Government of India is empowered to appoint court of inquiries in cases of accidents under Section 24 of the Mines Act, 1952.The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) under the Ministry of Labour is vested with the power to institute prosecutior in the court of law against the persons found responsible in the recommendations of the court of inquiry. The Central Government has powers to make regulations under Section 57 of the Mines Act, 1952 on recommendations of the court of inquiry. DGMS also issues circulars advising the management to comply with the recommendations.

(b): On receipt of the recommendations by Coal India Limited these are circulated to the subsidiary companies and necessary measures are taken to implement them. The status of implementation is monitored from time to time through Action Taken Reports from companies.

(c): Mining has been and continues to be a hazardous profession. Witha view to prevent accidents safety measures as per the recommendations of court of inquiries are being implemented on continuous basis by the coal companies. However there is always scope for improvement.

(d): Whenever it has been found that the recommendations, circulars and directives of DGMS arising out of the recommendations of the court of inquiry are not being implemented the attention of the coal companies are being drawn for taking action in the matter in the Bi-partite and Tri-partite meetings at the highest level. These violations are also reviewed in the Conferences on safety in mines.